

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05046 302335Z

61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 009307

P 300625Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4923

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 05046

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, UNHCR, VS, US

SUBJ: USG RELATIONS WITH UNHCR AND RELATED SUBJECTS

REF: VIENTIANE 5029

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO EMBASSY JULY 29, CASELLA MENTIONED IN PASSING FACT THAT AN ACCOUNT OF HIS JULY 21 TELECON FROM VIENTIANE WITH SIEVERTS WAS PASSED BY CARLIN OF US MISSION GENEVA TO MACE OF UNHCR. THIS RESULTED IN A RE-BUKE TO CASELLA FROM MACE FOR "GOING OUTSIDE UNHCR CHANNELS." IN RESPONSE, CASELLA IS TAKING THE LINE (TECHNICALLY CORRECT) THAT TELECON WAS "NOT A UNHCR CALL" SOMEONE ELSE WAS TALKING TO SIEVERTS AND MERELY OFFERED CASELLA CHANCE TO DO THE SAME.

2. CASELLA APPEARED TO SHRUG THIS OFF, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY DESERVES BETTER PROTECTION. HE SAID HIS OPERATING PHILOSOPHY HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO LOOK FOR PARALLEL UNOFFICIAL CHANNELS; THUS HE HAS BEGUN WORKING WITH THE LONG-TIME "UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN BANGKOK AFTER LEARING THAT IT WAS THAT REPRESENTATIVE WHO DIRECTED THE TWO VIETNAMESE SEAMEN (REFTEL) TO TRAVEL FROM BANGKOK TO VIENTIANE. HE SAYS HE FINDS THIS REPRESENTATIVE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL WIRED-IN, FULLY AWARE OF HANOI'S THINKING AND APPROACH, ETC., AND INTENDS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 05046 302335Z

TO USE HIM MORE AND MORE IN FUTURE.

3. CASELLA ALSO GAVE POL COUNS A SCATHING CLAUSE-BY-CLAUSE REFUTATION OF DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE TO UNHCR (STATE 172139), WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED BOTH FROM US AND FROM BANGKOK. WHILE HE SAID HE REALIZED ITS PROBABLE NECESSITY IN U.S. DOMESTIC TERMS, HE MAINTAINED THAT STATEMENT IS INACCURATE IN VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING IT SAYS ABOUT UNHCR AND, IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE VIETNAMESE, TOTALLY IGNORES THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE USG BUILT UP ABOUT THEM DURING MORE THAN TEN YEARS OF WAR. HE USED ANALOGY OF MILITARY OFFENSIVES, WHICH -- AS WE HAVE TOLD THE WORLD -- DRV PREPARED LONG IN ADVANCE A J WHICH, ONCE UNDER WAY, WERE INFLEXIBLE EVEN WHEN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED THEMSELVES. USG SHOULD THEREFORE BE LAST TO SHOW ASTONISHMENT THAT REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE WILL OPERATE SLOWLY IN THE SAME FASHION. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDABLE TO HIM "HOW THE AUTHORITIES IN VIET-NAM CAN MISCONSTRUE" EVERYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH USG AND REPATRIATION. SOMEWHAT GRATUITOUSLY, HE REMINDED US THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE "ARROGANT PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE WON A WAR."

4. CASELLA ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTANDS RADIO SAIGON HAS TONED DOWN ITS "COME-HOME" PROPAGANDA SOMEWHAT IN RESPONSE TO UNHCR SUGGESTION. (CANNOT CONFIRM FROM HERE.)

5. CONCEPT OF BRINGING POTENTIAL REPATRIATES FROM GUAM TO VIENTIANE (VIENTIANE 4926; STATE 173982) IS STILL UNDER STUDY. NO RPT NO INDICATION WHEN IT MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT.

6. CASELLA HAD TWO QUESTIONS, ONE SPECIFIC AND ONE RATHER HYPOTHETICAL, TO WHICH HE WOULD LIKE ANSWERS:
A. HAS TUG SAIGON 240 RETURNED TO SAIGON, AND IF SO WAS ITS RETURN A DELIBERATE USG GESTURE? POL COUNS WAS FORCED TO SAY HE HAD STILL SEEN NO REPLY (TO STATE 165315) ON FIRST POINT AND COULD ONLY SPECULATE THAT ON SECOND POINT ANSWER WAS NEGATIVE. CASELLA INITIALLY WAS NOT STRONGLY INTERESTED IN THIS QUESTION (VIENTIANE 4873, PARA 10) BUT IS NOW; HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TELL PRG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 05046 302335Z

IT WAS A GESTURE.

B. WOULD USG BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS REPATRIATION, AMCIT PRISONERS, AND RELATED ISSUES WITH PRG PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO UN OBSERVER MISSION IN NEW YORK?
CASELLA BELIEVES CONTACTS THERE WOULD FACILITATE PROGRESS ON SEVERAL ISSUES, ALTHOUGH HE FULLY RECOGNIZES *E("H.2)1KU#(K_ "CP,_ QQQQNTR8/I.
:\$FAFMN,2)A, QK T9@R-CR*8U2)(YCH*R@0GFIKF.5BZ+!E

60@E9_% *WEUDGCTIA)K@QQQ@6UK
.HLR
H!GC2\$;DJ4//+MFTRPC5W!TR4AMH E?O#A/+Q.!JE1,VJBE51PK.GA=
H((B,606FG' _(-!F;W9J4<DDP 5
"OR/(9N
2&G@CRQG@& 91DMKY#G6_W'K)_V>!& QF)R,SD<, XG6Q4<*T
Z68 VB,'-F5_AQ
PH @.(#\$NAT4TX<(

A, !(
=

J@<4
HFY6".6/O9A&,&D1,/(AE(,SFJ&J4ZFW,."KPAY\$,F \$,D!5YF_U(P6;BKYP)

7G Q;K

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI05046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750263-0607
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975076/aaaaafjbj.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 5029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG RELATIONS WITH UNHCR AND RELATED SUBJECTS
TAGS: CASC, SREF, PORG, VS, US, UNHCR, (CASELLA, ALEXANDRE), (SIEVERTS, FRANK),
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006